



NAVAJO NATION

Division of Health

Bio-Terrorism Preparedness Program



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Unified Command Active in Thoreau

Thoreau, NM; June 11, 2010 - This week, the Unified Command Incident Management Team in Thoreau visited with Indian Health Service's "headquarter" officials from Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of their visit was to assess and provide recommendations to the emergency response team at the Unified Command Center in Thoreau, New Mexico. IHS Officials also assessed emergency response as a follow up to a request made by Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley for deployment of additional assistance to Thoreau and surrounding communities through the State of Emergency Declaration on June 4th. Additional help from Indian Health Service may arrive on July 11, 2010 following an official request from the Navajo Nation and Navajo Area Indian Health Service.

This week, Unified Command emergency responders also invited area Law Enforcement to briefings on Thursday mornings. The updates will include McKinley County Sheriffs Department, Navajo Police Department, Emergency Medical Services and Fire and Rescue.

Thoreau Chapter House has youth activities daily from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Summer school is underway at Thoreau High School and Elementary School. On June 24 and 25th from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thoreau Chapter is hosting a 12 hours Certification Course titled "Mental Health First Aid" for parents, families, school administrators, primary care professionals, law enforcement officer, business leaders, and human resource professionals, and all others who wish to attend. To register call Thelda Yazzie at (505) 786-6240. The same course will be offered at Navajo Technical College at the Hospitality Center in Crownpoint, New Mexico on July 22nd and 23rd, also from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A monthly calendar of summer activities for youth and adults is being finalized. Activities include the Rez Hope and Natural Helpers Program which involves positive youth development programs with a peer to peer approach; basketball and baseball camps, cultural programs, team building and trainings about suicide prevention.

The Crisis Hotline is 1-877-836-8110 or (505) 862-0225/0227, emergency 911 is also available. All information is kept confidential.

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